



Representative Dontavius Jarrells

25th House District

Representative Thomas F. Patton

7th House District

House Finance Committee

House Bill 587 Sponsor Testimony

Representatives Dontavius Jarrells & Thomas F. Patton

Modify income tax credit for lead abatement expenses

November 15th, 2022

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking member Sweeney, and members of the Primary and Secondary Committee – Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Bill 587. This legislation provides a historic \$500 million dollar investment to roll out a robust multi-pronged strategy highlighting the critical need to protect children from lead exposure. HB 587 will help property owners ensure that homes and childcare centers are lead-safe by removing barriers for Ohio firms seeking to provide lead-safe work and incentivize firms to further advance lead abatement and to expand the reach of lead-safe work practices.

In Ohio, currently, 3.5 million of the total 5.15 million housing units were built in or before 1979, putting their inhabitants at risk of lead-based paint. Of that, 5.15 million over 2/3s or 3.08 million occupied housing units are old enough to contain lead-based paint. An estimated 427,875 children aged six and under live in these older housing units, making them potentially at risk of lead poisoning. For every \$1 spent to control lead hazards, at least \$17 would be returned as potential savings.

HB 587 would divide the \$500 million dollar investment among various departments to ensure a multi-pronged strategy to expand lead abatement:

- \$250 Million will be added to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund to support child lead poisoning prevention. The funding would be open to individuals, non-profits, and landlords for the direct service of removing lead from homes. Further, this funding can be used for grants and low-interest loans to assist in lead removal.
- It will add \$60 million to the Lead abatement Tax Credit and will make the tax credit refundable.

Representative Patton

\$100 Million will be provided to the Department of Development to increase the lead-safety workforce and support the following kinds of workforce activities:



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- Developing a program to assist contractors in moving into the lead abatement and lead-safety space through financial incentives.

Provide mentors for new participants in the lead-safety industry who can ensure that new contractors have positive experiences at their initial job sites.

- Collaboration with Labor Unions to add a lead-safety curriculum to some of their training facilities to increase the number of lead-safety workers coming into the industry.
- Work with Community Action Agencies and non-profit housing organizations to increase lead-safety training opportunities.
- Market the need to clean up lead-contaminated housing and the need for workers to go into these fields to have a strong enough workforce to accomplish the task.

\$60 Million will be provided to the Department of Health to handle the increased administration, present more grand opportunities for local health departments, and lead hazard enforcement. The final \$30 million will be provided to the Department of Medicaid to increase funding for its SCHIP lead program. This would allow the state to clear up the backlog of low-income children with elevated blood lead levels who currently live in unsafe conditions and to provide assistance for family relocation for lead abatement.